

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

There is no certain way of predicting which persons with psychiatric illness will have accidents, but many high risk drivers are such because of psychiatric conditions.

Many individuals with psychiatric illness are maintained on medications on an ambulatory status. These drugs have varying degrees of sedative side effects and can potentiate other central nervous system depressants. Persons receiving such medications should be screened in terms of severity of side effects incident to medication and the adequacy of the remission.

If a physician believes there may be a problem but is not sufficiently familiar with the patient's psychiatric status to make a valid judgment, he should refrain from doing so until he gains access to current psychiatric information or records or makes an appropriate referral for evaluation.

FUNCTIONAL ABILITY PROFILE: Psychiatric Disorders

Profile Levels	Circumstances*	Condition Example	Interval for Review
1.	No diagnosed condition	No known disorder.	
2.	Condition fully recovered & compensated	Past history of psychiatric or behavioral disorder, asymptomatic, off medication	N/A
3.	Active impairment: a. Minimal b. Mild c. Moderate d. Severe	a. Current psychiatric disorder without impaired judgment, destructive thinking or intent, controlled with or without medication. b. Same as (a), with potential for impaired judgement. ROAD EVALUATION REQUIRED c. Active psychiatric/behavioral disorder with indications of risk to self or others; or with treatment or medications which interfere with alertness or coordination, but with potential for improvement d. Same as (c), not expected to recover.	a. 4 years b. 1 year c. No driving d. No driving
4.	Condition under investigation	Newly discovered psychiatric/behavioral disorder	As needed

* For further explanation refer to page 1